after the area becomes technically feasible. However, the party as well as the Hon'ble Member of Parliament are kept informed accordingly in regard to technically non-feasible cases.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All such cases are directly monitored by the respective Chief General Managers of all the Telecom Circles/Districts and Telecom Commission Headquarters is kept apprised accordingly.

**Waiting list of telephone connections in Assam**

3250. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has plan to provide telephone connections on demand from the year 2000 onwards; and

(b) if so, the details of waiting list for telephone connections in Assam as on date and by when the telephone connections are likely to be provided to the wait-listed people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The Ninth Five Year Plan of Department of Telecom Services envisages to provide telephone connections on demand in the country by 31.3.2002 with the participation of private sector complementing the efforts of Government.

(b) The waiting list for telephone connections in Assam Telecom Circle as on 31.3.2000 was only 5475 as against the all India figure of 36.81 lakh. These wait listed people in Assam Circle will be provided telephone connections progressively during the current financial year.

**Waiting list of telephone connections in Orissa**

3251. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the exchange-wise number of waiting list for the telephone connections in Orissa and the time frame by when the waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): The exchange-wise number of waiting list for telephone connections in Orissa is given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 85. The existing waiting list is likely to be

cleared during current financial year progressively.

**V.P.T.'s in Gujarat**

3252. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of villages in Gujarat provided with village Public Telephones and total number of villages without public telephones as on date;

(b) how many villages in the State are likely to be provided Public Telephones during 1999-2000; and

(c) by when rest of the villages of the State will be provided with public telephones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE BSf THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRITAPAN SIKDAR): (a) 13,923 villages have been provided with Public Telephone facility and 4,202 villages are without Public Telephone facility in Gujarat as on 1.4.2000.

(b) During 1999-2000, Public Telephone facility was not provided in any village as the remaining villages are to be covered by a private operator who is yet to start service.

(c) All the remaining 4,202 villages will be provided with Public Telephone facility by March, 2002 progressively.

**Release of commemorative stamp in the name of Kittur Rani Chennamma**

3253. SHRI K. C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) how many stamps and coins were brought out during 1999-2000 in commemoration of various personalities;

(b) whether Karnataka Government had requested to bring out stamps and coins in commemoration of Kittur Rani Chennamma;

(c) if so, the action, if any, taken in this regard; and